

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 1, 21, and 34 with the following amended
Claims 1, 21, and 34:

*Sub
B6* 1. (Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
a chassis including a front panel and a back panel;
first and second side panels, each having an average length dimension
measured parallel to a longitudinal axis that is at least 20 percent of an overall length
dimension of the chassis measured parallel to the longitudinal axis, each of the side
panels being releasably connected to the front and back panels, and defining with the
chassis a waist opening and first and second leg openings;

a3 wherein the first side panel includes first and second fastening
components, the second side panel includes third and fourth fastening components,
the front panel includes first and third mating fastening components engageable with
the first and third fastening components, and the back panel includes second and
fourth mating fastening components engageable with the second and fourth fastening
components.

*Sub
B6* 21. (Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
an absorbent chassis including a front panel and a back panel;
first and second elastomeric side panels releasably connected to the
front and back panels and defining with the chassis a waist opening and first and second
leg openings, each of the first and second side panels having an average length
dimension measured parallel to a longitudinal axis that is at least 20 percent of an
overall length dimension of the chassis measured parallel to the longitudinal axis;

*a4
12-01-02* a first refastenable seam extending from the waist opening to the first
leg opening between the first side panel and the front panel;

a second refastenable seam extending from the waist opening to the
first leg opening between the first side panel and the back panel;

a third refastenable seam extending from the waist opening to the
second leg opening between the second side panel and the front panel; and

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~~a fourth refastenable seam extending from the waist opening to the second leg opening between the second side panel and the back panel.~~

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34. (Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:
~~a chassis including a front panel and a back panel, the front and back panels each having at least two fastening components bonded thereon, and partially defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings;~~

a first side panel including a substrate and at least two mating fastening components extending from the waist opening to the first leg opening, at least one of the mating fastening components releasably connected to at least one of the fastening components on one of the front and back panels; and

a second side panel including a substrate and at least two mating fastening components extending from the waist opening to the second leg opening, at least one of the mating fastening components releasably connected to at least one of the fastening components on one of the front and back panels; wherein each of the first and second side panels has an average length dimension measured parallel to a longitudinal axis that is at least 20 percent of an overall length dimension of the chassis measured parallel to the longitudinal axis.

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The total number of claims has not changed, and the number of independent claims has not changed. Therefore, no additional claim fee is due at this time.

REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for her comments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this patent application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. Currently, Claims 1-40 are pending.

The present invention is directed to pant-like absorbent garments having side panels that are releasably attached to a chassis portion of the garment such that the side panels can be unfastened from the garment, refastened to the garment,